

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 8, 14 and 15 are amended. No new matter is added.

In reply to the February 7, 2005 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect the species of Figure 8 and claims 1, 2, 5-10, 13-17, 20-25 and 28-30 which read thereon, with traverse. Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 2, 16 and 17 are generic claims. Thus, upon allowance of any of elected claims 1, 2, 16 and 17, rejoinder of non-elected claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 18, 19, 26, and 27 is respectfully requested.

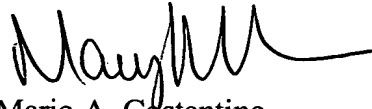
Further, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the information submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 28, 2001 and January 5, 2005.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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